

Listening Guide

[1] This paragraph addresses the importance of tolerating worldviews other than your own. Lessons 1–3 have examined seven worldviews. Think back for a moment about what each of the worldviews teaches and respond to the two questions this paragraph poses as if you were talking to a highly “tolerant” high school student. How would you respond to each question?

[2] Might it be possible that every worldview is partially right?

[3] Is it possible that one worldview could actually bring together individual parts of the other worldviews?

The Bible and Reality

[4] What are two or three “evidences” from nature that help you affirm your view of God?

[5] Are there any “evidences” that cast doubt on your view of God? If so, what are they?

[6] Contemplate Peter’s claim quoted in this section. What does it actually say about the Bible?

[7] Do you believe that?

[8] Does it have any influence on your view of Scripture? If so, how?

[9] According to this section, God reveals Himself through both physical and spiritual realms. How does God reveal truth about Himself to each of these realms?

[10] Does God speak more powerfully to you through nature or through scripture?

[11] How do you personally learn about God through each medium?

The Bible and Identity

[12] How would you answer the final question in this paragraph about the seeming contradiction between the amazing capacity of humans to do good and, at the same time, to do evil?

[13] In a sentence or two, describe what you think about the fact that you are created in God's image.

[14] Although we all possess the aspects of God's image listed in this paragraph, which one or two are most apparent in you?

[15] How specifically do they show themselves in you?

[16] How strongly do you sense this "dark" side of life that we see demonstrated in King David in your own humanity?

[17] Are there specific things you deal with that lead you to struggle with your identity?

[18] Do you ever pray that God will give you His perspective on how valuable you are to Him?

[19] What is your response to the final question of this section, “Where did this negative moral bent come from”?

[20] Do you believe we actually have a negative moral bent?

[21] If so, where did this negative bent come from?

[22] If not, how would you explain the fact that people do evil things?

The Bible and Origins

[23] Many skeptics have asked the two questions posed in this section as a challenge to the Bible’s claims that God is good. 1) How would you reply to a skeptic challenging God’s goodness? 2) How would you reply to a person struggling with a moral choice? Many godly people have asked these questions when struggling with a moral test

[24] Are there circumstances or events in your experience that stimulate doubt in your mind about God’s goodness? How do you respond to them?

[25] Read Genesis 3:15 and think about how this section describes the verse’s meaning. Write in a couple of sentences how you would explain its meaning to a child.

The Bible and Meaning

[26] What worldview is known for mourning the meaninglessness of life?

[27] Can you state succinctly what gives meaning to your life?

[28] To what extent does this description of Jesus resonate with your own understanding of Him?

[29] How does it agree and/or disagree with your view of Him?

[30] In your own search for life's meaning, what role does Jesus actually play?

[31] This paragraph concludes, "everything we think or do is a step toward or away from Him." As you consider the past few days, have your thoughts and actions been a movement toward or away from Him? How, specifically?

The Bible and Ethics

[32] How sensitive to this inner sense do you think most people are? Do people close to you have a strong commitment to ethical behavior?

[33] What are some ways such a commitment influences your own life?

[34] How sensitive are you to God's "inner voice"? Can you violate your sense of right and wrong without a struggle, or are you more in touch with your moral voice?

The Bible and the Future

[35] If taken seriously, how would this truth that the biblical worldview offers hope in a life to come influence a person's worldview and lifestyle?

[36] Does this truth of hope in a life to come influence your life in any way? If so, how?

[37] Have you accepted God's gift of eternal life? If so, meditate for a few moments on what an enormous gift that is.

[38] Offer your thanks to our gracious Father for offering it—and to His Son for purchasing it for you by dying to pay the just penalty for your sins.

[39] Romans 8:18–25 expresses the hope described in this paragraph. Take a moment to read and reflect on that amazing truth.

[40] How real is this amazing truth to you?

[41] Truth this profound can't be processed by the human mind in a few moments of reading about it. Consider blocking out some time in your schedule to come back to Romans 8 and Revelation 21 to meditate on your own eternal future. Give these truths time to shape your worldview.

[42] If you haven't already included this point in your worldview, it would be a good idea to do so.

[43] Do you believe we actually have a negative moral bent?

Is Each Worldview Partially Right?

[44] Given what this lesson teaches under the section "The Bible and Ethics," why would it be reasonable to believe that any worldview would have some echoes of a biblical worldview?

[45] Consider each of the other worldviews you have studied in this course and see if you can find elements of the biblical worldview in them.

[46] Review the lesson and see if you have achieved objective 1 for this lesson, “List the six distinctives of a biblical worldview.”

Reflection

Record one new fact or insight you discovered in this lesson.

Application

Using the principles from Lesson 2 of this course on being “genuine,” “respectful,” “humble,” “fair,” “discerning,” and “discreet,” play the role of a Muslim and explain why you prefer Islam to Christianity. Then reverse the roles and, as a Christian, explain why you prefer Christianity to Islam.